The Government should lay down a road programme under which all the roads in the State would converge at Alleppey. This would bring all the export trade of the country to the Alleppey port. The roads in Alleppey were in a miserable condition and they should be put in order at an early date.

The development of trade was seriously hampered because goods traffic in lorries was not allowed along the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road. If this restriction be removed the import trade of the State would improve and the Government would get the benefit of the revenue under import duty.

The construction of bridges at Arur and Tottappalli was very urgent and should not be postponed, in the interests of the development of trade.

The export trade in cashewnuts was going down. The value of cashewnuts exported in 1931, was one lakh of rupees, but this was likely to be reduced considerably in 1932. The Government should therefore take steps to develop cashewnut trade.

Travancore was not a manufacturing country. The development of trade of the State depended mainly on the expansion of export trade. This expansion in trade could be achieved only by insistent and judicious propaganda through men specially qualified to handle each department of export trade. Government should give liberal grants to associations of Indian merchants formed for this purpose.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your suggestions, Mr. Janardana Pillai, will receive very careful consideration. Some of them I have replied to in my answers to previous speakers. I am hoping to visit Alleppey early next month and to study the problems on the spot.

96. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. K. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Shencotta taluk*) said that the policy followed by the Government in the matter of nomination of the president and judges to the Village Panchayat Courts was not satisfactory. It was an accepted principle of the Judicial Department that judicial officers should not be allowed to continue in the same place for more than three years. But in Village Panchayat Courts, which formed a portion of the judiciary of the State, the judges were allowed to continue for many years. As an instance, the member referred to the case of the president and judges of the Shencotta Village Panchayat Court who were in office for seven years without break. There were other competent men in the place who could with advantage be given a chance.

The member next represented about the need for granting permission to the poor ryots to remove fuel and timber for making agricultural implements from the Puliyara reserved forest. The Forest Department was collecting 9 pies per head-load of fuel. This was prohibitive in view of the fall in the price of fuel. It should be reduced to 4 pies or 6 pies per head-load.

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The Government have sanctioned a dispensary for Ayikudi. It was a very useful institution serving more than 15 villages in the neighbourhood. But the dispensary was not housed in a suitable building. The building in which it was housed belonged to a private individual, who had given notice that the dispensary should be shifted from his building from the beginning of next year. There were a second class travellers' bungalow and a campshed at Shencotta. The camp-shed was not used much. It might be used for housing the dispensary.

The old system of issuing tax receipts, in books kept for the purpose, should be revived, as such a system enabled the land-owners to know what the tax was for each tenant. Under the new system any person could pay tax on another's account and there was no means of identifying the remitter.

The agriculturists and land-holders of Shencotta taluk suffered much hardship on account of the vagaries of the Land Records Maintenance staff. The duty of the Accountants attached to the department was to check the *porambokes* and what was intended to be done by them was to begin with the *porambokes* in one *pakuthi*, finish off all Survey Numbers there and then proceed to another *pakuthi*. But in Shencotta the Accountants were scattered over different places, each doing his quota of mischief in the locality in which he was temporarily posted and the *porambokes* were not also taken in any definite order or under any definite principle. The landholders also suffered much in the matter of fixing and supplying theodolite stones. The notices required to be given to land-owners under the rules regarding survey operations were not properly served and in most cases, the parties got information in respect of any proceedings taken against them under the Boundaries Regulation, only after the L. R. M. staff appeared to demand money for the stones and labour supplied. There were also cases where the field operations had been carried out when the crops were ready for harvest, thus causing very great loss to the land-owners. The L. R. M. staff did practically nothing except annoying the people. The staff should be disbanded forthwith in the interests of both the Government and the people.

DEWAN'S REPLY: In nominating judges for the Village Panchayat Courts, Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, we are trying to find persons whose status, education and respectability are high and who commands the confidence of the different communities of the taluk.

It is impossible to give unrestricted permission to people to collect fuel and timber from forests. Dry fuel is allowed to be collected for *bona fide* local requirements.

The dispensary at Ayikudi was opened on the understanding that the people would provide the building and the furniture required. It is therefore up to the people to fulfil their promise.

MEMBER: The people then promised the building and furniture; but now they are not prepared to act up to their promise. The result

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will be the abolition of the hospital. It is to avoid such a contingency that I suggest that the premises of the camp-shed may be used for the dispensary.

DEWAN: They should not have made a promise which they could not keep.

The new system of tax receipts is being tried; and when the Land Revenue Commissioner reports how it has been working, it will be decided whether it should be continued or not.

Revenue Supervisors are necessary. They have taken the place of the old Taluk Surveyors and are necessary assistants to the Tahsildars. Somebody trained in theodolite survey is required.

You made some complaints about the Survey Department. They will be enquired into.

97. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. R. SABARIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Shencotta*) said that complete prohibition was the goal of every enlightened Government. With regard to the excise policy, the Government had stated in reply to a representation at the 18th session of the Assembly that they were of the view that drink should be gradually abolished, that the abkari revenue should disappear eventually and that it should not be a source of profit. This clear enunciation of the Government's policy was reiterated by the Excise Commissioner as the spokesman of the Government in the first session of the Legislative Council in 1098. The special committee appointed to examine and give effect to this policy of the Government had recommended the adoption of local option in the major Municipalities of the State, as one of the means of "gradually realising the goal" of the Government in the matter. This measure of reform could with advantage be introduced in all the minor Municipalities of the State as well. But the easier, quicker and more powerful method of achieving the goal was by enforcing total prohibition in selected areas as the Madras Government had done in the Tenkasi taluk. A similar experiment might be made in the Shencotta taluk also. The abkari revenue from Shencotta taluk was less than what it was in other taluks of the State. The movement of total prohibition in preference to temperance had gained ground everywhere and should be taken advantage of by this Government also with the least possible delay.

The people of Shencotta experienced considerable difficulty on account of the want of a standard dry measure. There were three kinds of dry measures in use, *viz.*, the *edangali* and its sub-divisions, the Madras *pucka* and its sub-divisions and the *marakkal*, the *nazhi* and their sub-divisions. The *mudra pucka* was generally used in shops and other places of business, but for purchase of paddy and grain the last mentioned measures were used. There was a good deal of corruption among the merchants in the use of these measures as they were not standardised. The subject had been represented at the 18th, 19th and 26th sessions of the Assembly, but nothing was done in the matter. The question should receive the early attention of the Government.

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